

dent nationalities: they are bound to the Imperial Government, not by democratic feelings but by respect, and if this be lost, their allegiance is lost also. unless a motive can be found for it in some other impulse. Germany possesses a stable government. and it is possible to imagine Berlin as the effective head of a large colonial empire. For London no such prospect was conceivable. and the British over-sea dominions have accordingly been entirely emancipated from control. In effect they are united to the British Isles by nothing more substantial than an alliance. warmed no doubt by sentimental and patriotic ideas. but cemented by the advantages which they derive from the investment of British capital and the protection of the British fleet. Since long time past the Irish have lost all respect for the British Parliament: its vacillations of policy, which to Englishmen appear natural. to them appear absurd. and they have turned for discipline to the Church, to despotic societies. or to autocratic leaders of their own selection. There is a serious danger that India may also lose all respect for British rule if its vision. with growing acuteness, should pierce through the ranks of the officials who have so far represented consistency of purpose in the State authority.

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Political convictions are in great

measure based
upon habit, and It is a matter for some
surprise
that a party which is once secure in
office should
ever be driven from It by a change of
views that
cuts away its majority. Educated
men, when
past the enthusiasms of youth, rarely
shift their
allegiance: conversion is hardly
respectable.
Indeed we take it for granted that
Liberalism
and Conservatism run in families,
and our